



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 270***

*January Session, 2001*

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY  
MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (a) There is established an account in the General  
2 Fund to be known as the "Community Mental Health Strategic  
3 Investment Fund". The account shall contain all moneys required by  
4 law to be deposited in the account and shall be held separate and apart  
5 from all other money, funds and accounts. Investment earnings from  
6 any moneys in the account shall be credited to the account and shall  
7 become part of the assets of the account. Any balance remaining in the  
8 account at the end of any fiscal year shall not lapse and shall be  
9 available for use for the fiscal year next succeeding. Any proceeds  
10 received by the state for the sale or lease of Fairfield Hills Hospital or  
11 Norwich Hospital, or any part thereof, shall be credited to the account.

12       (b) The account established under subsection (a) of this section shall  
13 be used to provide financial assistance for the development of new or  
14 expanded community-based clinical and nonclinical facilities and  
15 services for adults and children, including supportive housing for  
16 adults with mental health needs.

17       (c) Within the account established under subsection (a) of this  
18 section, there shall be three subaccounts: (1) A Community Services  
19 Restoration subaccount for the purpose of providing financing for

20 adult mental health community services, including, but not limited to,  
21 rental subsidies, case management, assertive community treatment  
22 teams, intensive residential programs, specialized treatment programs,  
23 regional independent living grants, multicultural services, training,  
24 technical assistance and evaluation; (2) a Supportive Housing Pilots  
25 Initiative subaccount for the purpose of providing financing for the  
26 development costs of additional supportive housing units; and (3) a  
27 Community Kidcare Behavioral Health Initiative subaccount for the  
28 purpose of providing financing to public and nonprofit early  
29 childhood education providers for improvement of programs for the  
30 early detection, diagnosis and treatment of mental illness.

31       Sec. 2. (NEW) Expenditures from the Community Mental Health  
32 Strategic Investment Fund established under section 1 of this act shall  
33 be made pursuant to an annual financial assistance plan approved by  
34 the Community Mental Health Strategy Board established under  
35 section 3 of this act. The Commissioners of Mental Health and  
36 Addiction Services, Children and Families, Economic and Community  
37 Development and Social Services shall provide such information,  
38 including, but not limited to, information regarding needs  
39 assessments, program reviews and program revenues and expenses,  
40 and make such recommendations for expenditures from the account  
41 established under section 1 of this act, as may be requested by the  
42 board.

43       Sec. 3. (NEW) (a) There is established a Community Mental Health  
44 Strategy Board consisting of nineteen members. The voting members  
45 of the board shall be appointed as follows: (1) Three members by the  
46 Governor, including one member who shall be designated by the  
47 Governor as chairperson of the board; (2) two members by the  
48 president pro tempore of the Senate; (3) two members by the speaker  
49 of the House of Representatives; (4) one member by the majority leader  
50 of the Senate; (5) one member by the majority leader of the House of  
51 Representatives; (6) two members by the minority leader of the Senate;  
52 and (7) two members by the minority leader of the House of  
53 Representatives. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management

54 and the Commissioners of Mental Health and Addiction Services,  
55 Children and Families, Economic and Community Development,  
56 Education and Social Services, or their designees, shall serve as  
57 nonvoting ex-officio members of the board. Board members shall serve  
58 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their necessary  
59 expenses.

60 (b) The board, by majority vote of the voting members, shall, not  
61 less than annually, approve disbursements from the Community  
62 Mental Health Strategic Investment Fund established under section 1  
63 of this act for the purposes of sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this act. The  
64 board shall designate the appropriate state agencies to receive such  
65 disbursements and to implement the provisions of sections 1 to 4,  
66 inclusive, of this act. The board shall designate the assignment of funds  
67 not otherwise assigned to such subaccounts established under section  
68 1 of this act as the board deems appropriate.

69 (c) The board shall, not later than February first, annually, report to  
70 the Governor and the General Assembly, in accordance with the  
71 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The report shall  
72 include a description of all disbursements made from the account  
73 established under section 1 of this act during the prior fiscal year and  
74 an evaluation of the impact of each program or service receiving such  
75 disbursements with respect to its effectiveness in expanding access to  
76 quality, appropriate community-based mental health care.

77 (d) The board shall be within the Department of Mental Health and  
78 Addiction Services for administrative purposes only and shall provide  
79 for such staff and other administrative support as be may be required  
80 for the purposes of the account established under section 1 of this act.  
81 The board may use not more than two per cent of the proceeds of the  
82 account for administrative purposes of the account.

83 Sec. 4. (NEW) Not later than January 1, 2002, the Commissioner of  
84 Social Services shall amend the Medicaid state plan to provide for  
85 coverage of optional adult rehabilitation services supplied by various

86 providers of mental health services, pursuant to a contract with the  
87 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, for adults with  
88 psychiatric disabilities who are clients of said department. Moneys  
89 received by the state as federal reimbursement for optional Medicaid  
90 adult rehabilitation services shall be credited to the Community  
91 Services Restoration subaccount within the account established under  
92 section 1 of this act and shall be available for use for the purposes of  
93 the subaccount.

94 Sec. 5. The sum of fifty million dollars is appropriated to the  
95 Community Mental Health Strategic Investment Fund, from the  
96 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001. Of the funds so  
97 appropriated, (1) fifteen million dollars shall be appropriated to the  
98 Community Services Restoration subaccount; (2) fifteen million dollars  
99 shall be appropriated to the Supportive Housing Pilots Initiative  
100 subaccount; and (3) twenty million dollars shall be appropriated to the  
101 Community Kidcare Behavioral Health Initiative subaccount.

102 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect from its passage.

**PH**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**APP**          *Joint Favorable*